



PATENT
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THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : M. Allen Northrup et al.
Serial No.: 08/900,735
Filed : 07/24/1997
Title : MICROFABRICATED REACTOR

Art Unit: 1634
Examiner: Sisson, B.

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

RESPONSE TO FINAL ACTION DATED AUGUST 26, 1999

Claims 1 and 93-123 are pending.

A Declaration Under 37 CFR § 1.131 has been filed along with this Response to replace the Declaration filed on July 12, 1999. In addition, a Declaration of William J. Egan, III has been filed along with this Response.

I. The Examiner's Prior Art Rejections

The examiner has rejected claims 1 and 93-121 under U.S.C. § 102(e) or in the alternative, under U.S.C. § 102(a) over Wilding et al. (U.S. 5,486,335, Wilding I) or Wilding et al. (U.S. 5,498,392, Wilding II). For the reasons explained below, neither Wilding I nor Wilding II constitute prior art with respect to the present invention and, accordingly, the examiner's prior art rejections should be withdrawn.

II. Declarations

Applicants' present application was filed on July 24, 1997 and claims priority back to August 31, 1992, the filing date of the parent application (U.S. 5,639,423), under 35 U.S.C. § 120. Although the effective filing date (May 1, 1992) for both Wilding I and Wilding II is earlier than the effective filing date of the present application (August 31, 1992), the inventors completed the conception of the invention prior to May 1, 1992, and due diligence was exercised from prior to May 1, 1992 to August 31, 1992, the effective filing

Date of Deposit January 5, 2000
I hereby certify under 37 CFR 1.8(a) that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail with sufficient postage on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

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